production operator to a transportation operator.

Purpose: We remind all operators of natural gas and hazardous liquid pipelines located on the Outer Continental Shelf of the September 15, 1998, deadline to durably mark the specific points at which operating responsibility transfers from a producing operator to a transporting operator, or, if it is not practicable to durably mark this transfer point, to depict the transfer point on a schematic maintained near the transfer point.

Operators must meet all of the following criteria to be affected by this rule:

(1) Operating responsibility must transfer from a producer to a transporter;
(2) The transfer must take place on the Outer Continental Shelf; and
(3) The producer must be upstream from the transporter.

Pipelines that do not meet these criteria continue to be subject to the provisions of 49 CFR Parts 192.1(b)(1) and 195.1(b)(5) that state these Parts do not apply upstream from the outlet flange of each facility where hydrocarbons are produced or where produced hydrocarbons are first separated, dehydrated, or otherwise processed, whichever facility is farther downstream. Any proposed amendments to these regulations will be initially announced through publication of the Department of Transportation Semi-Annual Regulatory Agenda in the **Federal Register** and afforded full public participation through subsequent publication in the **Federal Register** of a notice of proposed rulemaking and request for comments.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on November 24, 1998.

Richard B. Felder,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 98–31780 Filed 11–27–98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket RSPA–98–4799]

Pipeline Safety User Fees

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the fiscal year 1999 user fee assessments for pipeline facilities. The assessments will be mailed to pipeline operators on or about December 15, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lisa Kokoszka, OPS, (202) 366–4554, regarding the subject matter of this notice.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The fees to be assessed for natural gas transmission, hazardous liquid and liquefied natural gas (LNG) are as indicated below:

Natural gas transmission pipelines: $70.47 per mile (based on 288,205 miles of pipeline).

Hazardous liquid pipelines: $57.88 per mile (based on 156,828 miles of pipeline).

LNG is based on the number of plants and total storage capacity:

Total Storage Capacity BBLS	Assessment/ Plant
<10,000	$1,250
10,000–100,000	2,500
100,000–250,000	3,750
250,000–500,000	5,000
>500,000	7,500

Section 60301 of Title 49, United States Code, authorizes the assessment and collection of pipeline user fees to fund the pipeline safety activities conducted under 49 U.S.C. 60101 *et seq.* RSPA assesses each operator of regulated interstate and intrastate natural gas transmission pipelines (as defined in 49 CFR part 192), and hazardous liquid pipelines carrying petroleum, petroleum products, anhydrous ammonia and carbon dioxide (as defined in 49 CFR part 195) a share of the total Federal pipeline safety program costs in proportion to the number of miles of pipeline each operator has. Onshore pipelines excluded from regulation by 49 CFR part 195, are not included. Operators of LNG facilities are assessed based on total storage capacity (as defined in 49 CFR part 193).

In accordance with the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 60301, Departmental resources were taken into consideration for determining total program costs. The apportionment ratio between gas and liquid, as shown below, increased in recent years with our environmental protection activities in the hazardous liquid program area:

Year(s)	General program costs (gas)	General program costs (liquid)
1986–1990 (percent)	80	20
1991–1992 (percent)	75	25
1993 (percent)	[1] 75	[1] 25
Do	[2] 60	[2] 40
1994 (percent)	60	40
1995 (percent)	75	25
1996 (percent)	65	35
1997–1999 (percent)	55	45

[1] ¾ yr. [2] ¼ yr.

In accordance with the regulations of the Department of the Treasury, user fees will be due 30 days after the date of the assessment. Interest, penalties, and administrative charges will be assessed on delinquent debts in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3717.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 60301.

Issued in Washington, DC, on November 24, 1998.

Richard B. Felder,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 98–31781 Filed 11–27–98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33681]

Fort Worth & Western Railroad Company—Acquisition Exemption—South Orient Railroad Company, Ltd.

Fort Worth & Western Railroad Company (FWWR), a Class III rail carrier, has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to acquire by lease and to operate approximately 176 miles of rail line of the South Orient Railroad Company, Ltd. (SORC).[1]

The lines to be leased are: (1) Centex Rural Rail Transportation District's (a) Fort Worth-Ricker Line, between approximately milepost 1 + 1,541 feet near Fort Worth, TX, and approximately milepost 134 + 2,171 feet near Ricker, TX, and (b) Cresson-Cleburne Line, between approximately milepost 18 + 133 feet near Cresson, TX, and approximately milepost 0 + 1,167.1 feet near Cleburne, TX; and (2) Texas Central Railroad Company's line of railroad between approximately milepost 104.6 at Dublin, TX, and approximately milepost 129.5 at Gorman, TX.[2] In addition, FWWR will acquire from SORC by assignment incidental overhead trackage rights over the following lines: (1) The Burlington

[1] *See Cen-Tex Rail Link, Ltd.—Merger Exemption—South Orient Railroad Company, Ltd.*, STB Finance Docket No. 32951 (STB served Aug. 2, 1996).

[2] *See Cen-Tex Rail Link, Ltd.—Trackage Rights Exemption—Texas Central Railroad Company*, Finance Docket No. 32521 (ICC served Aug. 18, 1994) and *Cen-Tex Rail Link, Ltd.—Lease and Operation Exemption—Texas Central Railroad Company*, Finance Docket No. 32596 (ICC served June 18, 1995).